GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2449
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
INADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITY
Ramadass Prof. M;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity for storage of foodgrains available with the Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation as on date, Statewise;

(b) whether the Government is facing serious problems in proper and safe storage of foodgrains due to inadequate storage facility in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of foodgrains lost due to lack of storage space during each of the last three years;

(d) the total capacity proposed to be created during 2008-09 alongwith the allocation made for the said purpose;

(e) the expenditure incurred on storage of foodgrains during the last one year, Statewise; and

(f) the other remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure proper storage of foodgrains during the ensuing Rabi season?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The total storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India is 243.07 lakh tonnes as on 31st January, 2008. State-wise details are given in the statement at Annex-I.

The total storage capacity available with the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) as on 1.02.2008 is 6748970 MTs Region/State-wise details are given in the statement at Annex-II.

(b): No Sir.The over all storage capacity available with FCI at present is quite adequate at macro level. Against the total storage capacity of 243.07 lakh tonnes held by FCI,144.65 lakh tonnes capacity is lying vacant as on 31.01.2008.

Further under the National Policy of Bulk Handling, Storage & Transportation of foodgrains, a capacity of 5.5 lakh MTs is being created both in Procuring and Deficit States on Build Own & Operate (BOO) basis.

In addition, full powers have been vested with the General Managers (Region)/Executive Directors(Zone) of FCI to hire additional storage capacity for meeting the emergent requirement from CWC/SWC/State Govt. and with the approval of CMD for the private godowns.

(c): No, Sir. No foodgrains were lost on account of lack of storage space during the last three year.

(d): During the year 2008-09, an allocation of Rs.20.00 crore has been proposed under the Plan Scheme for construction of storage godowns. The proposals for construction of storage godowns will be finalized in consultation with the FCI/Planning Commission.

During 2008-09, the CWC has proposed to create 1,18,800 MTs which involves a cost of Rs.4964 lakhs.

(e): The accounts of FCI for 2006-07 are not finalized. Hence, Region-wise details are not available. However, the All India Provisional estimates for 2006-07 (Prov.) is Rs.1063,26 crores including staff salary of persons posted for storage operations.

(f): The following remedial steps have been taken by FCI to ensure proper storage of foodgrains are:

i) Ensuring that all its own godowns are constructed and maintained on scientific lines for storage of foodgrains.

ii) Provision for adequate dunnage and plinth for storage of foodgrains in open and in CAP storage with covering of specifically fabricated low density black polythene, water proof sheets with proper lashing by nylon ropes

iii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns by qualified and trained staff.

iv) Undertaking of prophylactic and curative treatment of the stocks regularly.

v) Strict implementation of procedure of `First in, First out`(FIFO) so as to avoid longer retention of stocks;

vi) Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.